

Month-long ‘French Weeks’ set to enthrall Muscat

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BY

Muscat – The Embassy of France in Oman announced the sixth edition of its flagship annual event ‘French Weeks’ on Tuesday.

The month-long programme, ending March 5, kickstarted with a performance by Muscat Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the French Embassy.

Themed ‘Make it Iconic: Choose France’, this edition boasts an array of events – gastronomic, art, educational and business – showcasing different facets of France in Oman.

Speaking about the event, H E Veronique Aulagnon, French Ambassador to Oman, said, “This varied programme aims to satisfy everyone’s curiosity and tastes, with concerts, festival evenings, a conference, and other cultural events which are not to be missed.”

As the French Weeks unfold, Muscat will be treated to a sensory feast of sights and sounds, and witness a celebration of the enduring friendship between Oman and France, fostering cultural exchange and mutual appreciation, she added.

“This edition of French Weeks stands as a testament to the power of cultural diplomacy, bringing people together through the universal language of art, music and gastronomy.”

H E Veronique described French Weeks as the flagship event of the embassy aimed at building bridges and showcasing French gastronomy, innovation, movies and arts and more. “This is also the first time we are taking part in Muscat International Film Festival and Muscat Book Fair,” H E Veronique added.

On February 13, Crowne Plaza Muscat will host an electronic music and cinematic concert by French-Lebanese group Love & Revenge inspired by a rich repertoire of Middle Eastern pop and Egyptian films spanning from the 1940s to the 1990s, creating a harmonious blend of old and new music.

The Oman France Clean Energy Conference, organised by Oman-French Friendship Association (OFA) on February 22, will focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the clean energy sector.



Muscat Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performs at French Embassy at the launch of ‘French Weeks’

Art enthusiasts will be treated to a photography exhibition titled *Souffle Aride* at Stal Gallery, where French photographer Laura Bonnefous will take viewers on a poetic and inspiring journey with her captivating portraits and landscapes from Duqm. Starting on February 25, the exhibition will be open to the public till March 7.

France will mark its presence with a booth at Muscat International Book Fair from February 22 to March 2, promising an interaction with French graphic novelists working in Oman offering a unique blend of literature and art.

France will also take part in Muscat International Film Festival with a special screening of *Anatomy of a Fall* on March 4.

French Weeks will draw to a close on March 5 with a grand finale titled ‘Good France’ which promises a spectacular evening of music and gastronomy, showcasing the richness of French culinary delights. Collaborating with the finest hotels and restaurants in Muscat, this gastronomical night will provide a delectable taste of France.

Additionally, the documentary *Le dernier Guerrier d’Arabie* will be screened on March 12 followed by iftar. This cinematic exploration of historical narratives will provide a fitting conclusion to the month-long celebration of French culture in Oman.



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